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SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRESS COVERAGE

1. HIGHLIGHTS. TUESDAY PAPERS FEATURED FORD ON ARMS PACT; BALTSUN ALSO FRONTPAGED ISRAEL SAYS IT COULD BUILD NUCLEAR WEAPON. WEDNESDAY NYTIMES FRONTPAGED BRITAIN TO CUT FORCES IN ASIA AFRICA, CONCENTRATE ON NATO; WASHPOST FRONTPAGED FORD KISSINGER PRESS TRADE BILL; BALTSUN FRONTPAGED US URGES RESTRAINT BY ARMS CRITICS. TUESDAY PAPERS FEATURE DOMESTIC NEWS. SOME COMMENT ON ARMS PACT.

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1A. TUESDAY PAPERS INSIDE HAD BROOKINGS STUDY URGES TACTICAL NUCLEAR CUTBACKS IN EUROPE; BALTSUN HAD RUSSIANS ORBIT EARTH IN TEST FOR JOINT FLIGHT. WEDNESDAY BALTSUN REPORTED MONDALE SAYS PACT FAVORS RUSSIANS. TODAY'S

NYTIMES REPORTS KISSINGER SURPRISED BY CRITICISM OF ARMS ACCORD; WASHPOST REPORTS KISSINGER SEES GAIN FOR ATOMIC PACT.

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2. SALT. NEWSWEEK ENTITLES ITS ARTICLE, SETTING A BOUNDARY; SAYS AGREEMENT TOOK SOME OF THE CHILL OFF FORD WHITE HOUSE BUT QUICKLY BEGAN TO DRAW AS MUCH CRITICISMS AS ACCLAIM, WITH DOVES GRUMBLING OVER FACT THAT PACT DOESN'T CALL FOR ARMS REDUCTION. ARTICLE SAYS GETTING ANYTHING AT ALL WAS PROBLEM IN VIEW OF DIFFERENCES AMONG US EXPERTS; AND FORD TOLD NEWSWEEK FIRST SESSION AT VLADIVOSTOK BROKE

UP IN COMPLETE DEADLOCK AND NEXT DAY, TO BREAK THE STALEMATE, FORD RAISED THE CEILING ABOVE LIMITS SCHLESINGER AND GEN. BROWN HAD APPROVED. ARTICLE SAYS PENTAGON APPRECIATES ABSENCE OF RESTRAINTS ON ITS PROGRAMS; ADDS SCOVILLE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH BOTH COUNTRIES ARE STILL STOCKING UP THEIR ARSENALS AT AN ALARMING RATE, AT LEAST WE NOW KNOW THE OUTER LIMITS.

2A. TUESDAY NYTIMES GWERTZMAN STRESSED FORD SAID ACCORD PUT A FIRM CEILING ON ARMS RACE AND CREATED SOLID BASIS FOR FUTURE REDUCTIONS, GWERTZMAN ADDING THAT FORD'S DISCLOSURE OF A 1320 CEILING ON MIRVS IS SURE TO INCREASE CRITICISM BY ARMS CONTROL ADVOCATES AND BUDGET CUTTERS. GWERTZMAN REPORTS JACKSON REPEATED HIS COMPLAINT THAT ACCORD PERMITS RUSSIANS MORE MIRVS AND US MIGHT HAVE TO SPEND BILLIONS TO CATCH UP.

2B. TUESDAY BALTSUN TREWHITT STRESSED FORD'S STATEMENT THAT PACT CEILINGS ARE WELL BELOW THE FORCE LEVELS WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN EXPECTED OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS, AND VERY SUBSTANTIALLY BELOW FORCE WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM AN ALL-OUT ARMS RACE, TREWHITT ADDING AT TIMES PRESIDENT SEEMED UNCERTAIN ABOUT HIS MATERIAL, APPEARING TO CONFUSE ROCKET POWER WITH MULTIPLE WARHEADS.

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2C. TUESDAY WASHPOST KILPATRICK GETLER STRESSED FORD CONFIRMED CEILINGS IN PACT AND SAID MORE THAN HALF OF MISSILES COULD BE MIRVS. STORY SAYS THAT IN REPLY TO CRITICISM FORD SAID THIS COUNTRY CAN BUILD LARGER MISSILES IF IT CHOOSES TO. THIS POINT WAS STRESSED IN A GETLER-MARDER STORY WHICH ADDED PENTAGON IS DEVELOPING A NEW AND MORE POWERFUL MISSILE TO REPLACE MINUTEMAN AND UNDER PACT US HAS RIGHT TO DEPLOY SUCH WEAPONS IF NECESSARY TO CLOSE THE GAP WITH THE RUSSIANS, BUT US MAY ULTIMATELY PREFER THE OPTION OF GREATER RELIANCE ON MISSILE-FIRING SUBS, ALTHOUGH CONGRESS MAY BALK AT THE HIGH COSTS.

STORY ADDS GOLDWATER ON TODAY SHOW SAID HE DIDN'T BELIEVE

ACCORD REALLY CAPS THE ARMS RACE.

2D. WEDNESDAY BALTSUN HAS LOCAL ARTICLE REPORTING MONDALE, DELIVERING KENNEDY MEMORIAL LECTURE AT JOHNS HOPKINS, SAID ACCORD ACTUALLY GAVE RUSSIANS AN ENORMOUS ADVANTAGE IN CERTAIN WEAPONS AND INSTEAD OF BEING A BREAKTHROUGH COULD ESCALATE THE ARMS RACE. MONDALE BREAKTHROUGH COULD ESCALATE THE ARMS RACE. MONDALE PREDICTED THAT UNLESS PACT IS STRENGTHENED SENATE MIGHT NOT APPROVE IT, ADDING HE WILL WORK FOR AMENDMENT.

2E. WEDNESDAY BALTSUN TREWHITT WASHINGTON REPORTED STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS SAID WHOLE PROCESS OF DETENTE COULD BE IN DANGER IF CURRENT DRIVE TOWARD A NUCLEAR ARMS AGREEMENT FAILS AND URGED RESTRAINT BY DOMESTIC CRITICS, ADDING THAT RUSSIANS HAD MADE CONCESSIONS ON ALMOST EVERY POINT RAISED BY US. TREWHITT SAYS OFFICIALS ADDED ONE POSSIBLE OBSTACLE TO COMPLETING AN AGREEMENT IS RUSSIAN, SAYING THEY MUST ACCEPT AMERICAN TERMS FOR VERIFYING THE NUMBER OF WARHEADS TO BE CARRIED BY STRATEGIC ROCKETS. STILL, OFFICIALS EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE RUSSIANS WOULD APPROVE PLAN WHICH ASSUMES AUTOMATICALLY THAT CERTAIN MISSILES CARRY SEVERAL WARHEADS.

2F. WEDNESDAY WASHSTAR HEADED OSWALD JOHNSTON ON SAME SUBJECT, NO PROBLEM SEEN IN VERIFICATION.

2G. WEDNESDAY BALTSUN CORDDRY SAID PROJECTED ARMS ACCORD UNCLASSIFIED

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WILL FORCE DOD TO CONTINUE AT LEAST AT PRESENT LEVELS A NUMBER OF STRATEGIC WEAPONS PROGRAMS THAT IT WOULD HAVE LIKED TO SLOW DOWN OR CANCEL TO PERMIT GREATER EMPHASIS ON MODERNIZING THE CONVENTIONAL MILITARY, ACCORDING PENTAGON OFFICIALS WHO TAKE VIEW SIMILAR TO THAT OF HALSTED OF ARMS CONTROL ASSOCIATION IN THIS RESPECT.

2H. WEDNESDAY WASHPOST GETLER REPORTED SEVERAL NEW ATOMIC WEAPONS ARE NOT COVERED BY ACCORD AND ARE LIKELY TO STIR CONTROVERSY IN GENEVA AND WASHINGTON, CITING EXCLUSION OF NEW RUSSIAN BOMBER BACKFIRE OR US CRUISE MISSILE WHICH ARE NOT TRULY OCEAN-SPANNING IN RANGE, ALSO EXCLUSION OF NEW MOBILE MISSILES.

2I. THURSDAY NYTIMES GWERTZMAN WASHINGTON SAID KISSINGER SPOKE TO PRESS AFTER MEETING OF SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND EXPRESSED SURPRISE OVER CRITICISM IN WASHINGTON OF TENTATIVE ARMS AGREEMENT REACHED IN VLADIVOSTOK SAYING THAT EXISTENCE OF CEILING ON NUMBER OF ARMS WILL TAKE THE HEAT OUT OF THE ARMS RACE AND ALLOW BOTH SIDES TO BEGIN THINKING ABOUT NEGOTIATING REDUCTIONS. CRITICS SAY CEILING IS TOO HIGH CUTTING NEITHER NUMBER NOR

COST OF ARMS, AND SENATOR JACKSON WANTS SOVIET TWO-ENGINE "BACKFIRE" BOMBERS TO BE COUNTED AGAINST SOVIET'S TOTAL CEILING OF 2,400 MISSILES, A QUESTION WHICH KISSINGER SAID IS STILL OPEN TO NEGOTIATION SAID GWERTZMAN. KISSINGER TOLD SENATORS THAT MOST DIFFICULT ISSUE REMAINING TO BE NEGOTIATED BEFORE A FORMAL AGREEMENT CAN BE SIGNED NEXT SPRING IS PROBLEM OF VERIFICATION, BUT THAT US RECONNAISSANCE SATELLITES CAN DETERMINE WHICH SILOS HAVE BEEN

MODERNIZED TO HOLD MISSILES WITH MULTIPLE WARHEADS AND CAN ASSUME THAT EACH SILO DOES HOLD MIRVS.

2J. THURSDAY WASHPOST MARDER WASHINGTON REPORTED KISSINGER GAINED SUPPORT FOR TENTATIVE US-SOVIET ARMS ACCORD FROM CONSISTENTLY FRIENDLY SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, WITH SYMINGTON VIEWING NEW PROGRESS AS A HOPEFUL BEGINNING, CHURCH BELIEVING THAT ON BASIS OF KISSINGER'S PRESENTATION FORRELCOMM WILL BE ABLE TO MARSHALL "STRONG BIPARTISAN SUPPORT" IN CONGRESS, AND SPARKMAN CHARACTERIZING UNCLASSIFIED

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SPIRIT OF THE COMMITTEE AS ONE OF OPTIMISM THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE. MARDER SAID KISSINGER BELIEVES CRITICISM RAISED ELSEWHERE IS UNWARRANTED AND THAT WHEN FIGURES AGREED TO AT VLADIVOSTOK ARE CORRECTLY ANALYZED CEILING ON NUCLEAR DELIVERY SYSTEMS WILL BE SEEN AS A VERY SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT.

3. EUROPE. TUESDAY WASHPOST GETLER SAID NEW STUDY OF US NUCLEAR WEAPONS STORED IN WEUROPE BY JEFFREY RECORD AT BROOKINGS RECOMMENDS SHARP CUT-BACKS ON THE TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS STORED THERE AND WITHDRAWAL OF CERTAIN ATOMIC-BOMB-LADEN "ALERT" AIRCRAFT AND NUCLEAR ARTILLERY UNITS. STUDY SAYS NUMBER AND DESTRUCTIVE POWER OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS IS EXCESSIVE AND THAT SOME ARE DEPLOYED IN A DANGEROUS MANNER AND RECOMMENDS REDUCTION OF TACTICAL NUKES FROM 7,000 TO 2,000, A MOVE WHICH WOULD ALSO FREE ABOUT 25,000 TROOPS FOR ADDITIONAL CONVENTIONAL DEFENSE.

3A. TUESDAY NYTIMES MIDDLETON SIMILAR BUT SAYS RECORD CONCLUDES THAT PRESENT WEAPONS PROVIDE LITTLE IF ANY MILITARY ADVANTAGE TO NATO AND COULD ACTUALLY INVITE A PREEMPTIVE STRIKE FROM SOVIET FORCES. RECORD DOUBTS ANY FUTURE WAR IN EUROPE WOULD PROGRESS FROM USE OF CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS TO TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS BUT WOULD DEVELOP AT ONCE INTO STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WAR USING ICBMS AND BOMBERS, THE APPROACH TAKEN IN SIDORENKO'S WORK ON STRATEGY, "THE OFFENSIVE," WHICH SHOWS SOVIET THINKING EMPHASIZES THE "MASS EMPLOYMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS" ONCE THE NUCLEAR THRESHOLD HAS BEEN CROSSED.

4. COMMENT. FIFTEEN EDITORIALS APPEARING BEFORE FORD PRESS CONFERENCE MAY BE DIVIDED: 10 PLEASED WITH VLADIVOSTOK PROGRESS BUT FEELING THAT ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION IS NEEDED; 2 EDITORIALS FRANKLY DUBIOUS, WALL STREET JOURNAL AND NYNEWS; AND 3 STATING THAT THE VLADIVOSTOK CEILINGS ARE TOO HIGH AND SHOULD BE BROUGHTDOWN: BALTSUN, NYTIMES, NYPOST.

4A. IN COMMENT SINCE PRESS CONFERENCE, NYTIMES REGRETS VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MILITARY ON BOTH SIDES
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LETS QUALITATIVE ARMS RACE GO ON UNHINDERED. BALTSUN SHARES THIS REGRET WHILE WELCOMING AGREEMENT ON EQUIVALENCE. SUN SAYS WHITE HOUSE AND KREMLIN SHOULD BE TOLD IF THEY AREN'T PREPARED TO LOWER CEILINGS, DOVES WILL JOIN SUPERHAWKS IN RESISTING RATIFICATION. WASHSTAR ALSO SAYS IT'S STILL A PRETTY FRIGHTENING ARMS RACE, BUT VLADIVOSTOK HAS SAVED US FROM A MORE FRANTIC ARMS RACE AND THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT PRESENT HIGH CEILINGS MAY BE LOWERED TO REDUCE LEVEL OF NUCLEAR TERROR. KISSINGER

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